

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18643

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: 104 EX.BRD. STRAINED DISCUSSION
BETWEEN DG AND US PERM REP ON ISSUE OF
REPORT TO DG'S TEAM TO THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES.

1. DG M'BOW PROVIDED 104 EX.BRD. WITH AN ORAL REPORT
ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR (4)
SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS FROM MISSION TEAM
MEMBERS. US AMBASSADOR TORRES QUESTIONED ABSENCE
OF CHIEF OF MISSION REPORT (PAUL-MARC HENRY).
DG VISIBLY DISTURBED RESPONDED THAT HENRY'S
CORRESPONDENCE WAS A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER WHICH
HE FELT SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED. AMBASSADOR
TORRES REPHRASED HIS QUESTION AS TO CORRECT THE
RECORD IN THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE PRIVY TO
CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE BUT RATHER UNDERSTOOD
THAT THERE WAS A COMPOSITE REPORT BY HENRY DATED
APRIL 17, 1978 AND WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

2. DG WAS FURTHER INCENSED THAT HE WAS OPENLY BEING
PRESSED TO CLARIFY WHETHER THERE WAS A REPORT OR
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NOT AND RETORTED THAT OBVIOUSLY AMBASSADOR TORRES
HAD INSIDE INFORMANTS OR PERHAPS OBTAINED SUCH A
REPORT FROM HENRY HIMSELF. HE PRESSED FOR THE
AMBASSADOR TO REVEAL HIS SOURCE. AMBASSADOR
TORRES AGAIN STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A
REPORT AND WAS CONCERNED IF THERE WAS ONE, WHY
IT WAS OMITTED. DG ADMITTED THERE WAS SUCH A

DOCUMENT AND PROCEEDED TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING FROM EX. BRD. HE PROCEEDED TO ADMONISH AMBASSADOR TORRES FORCING HIM TO EXPLAIN.

3. BOARD MEMBER LUIS ECHEVARRIA (MEXICO) ASKED FOR POINT OF ORDER TO SAY THAT AMBASSADOR TORRES POINT WAS WELL TAKEN AND SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE SUSPICION OF THE DG OR TO CREATE DISSENTION ON THE EX. BRD. CHAIRMAN MARTIN INVITED AMBASSADOR TORRES TO SPEAK. AMBASSADOR TORRES MADE A STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS RIGHT TO KNOW ALL THE FACTS BEFORE TAKING ACTION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUE OR ANY EX.BRD. MATTER. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS A DEPUTY FOR THE US EX. BRD. MEMBER AND THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THIS ISSUE WARRANTED THE DG TAKING IT AS A PERSONAL AFFRONT.

4. THE EXCHANGE DID CHARGE THE SESSION WITH A DEGREE OF TENSION AND CAUSED A NOTABLE BREACH BETWEEN THE DG AND AMBASSADOR TORRES. PRIVATELY OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND PERMREPS SUPPORTED THE US STANCE.
5. THE NEXT DAY THE CHIEF OF CABINET (BEKRI) APPROACHED AMBASSADOR TORRES ON PRETEXT OF PROVIDING HIM THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR POST OF ADG FOR ADMINISTRATION. IN SO DOING HE SAID THE DG WAS SORRY FOR THE PREVIOUS DAY'S ENCOUNTER. AMBASSADOR TORRES
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ALSO SAID HE TOO FELT SORRY THAT THE DG HAD TAKEN THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AS A PERSONAL AFFRONT. BEKRI SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR A PRIVATE GET-TOGETHER BETWEEN THEM IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE AIR.

6. THAT EVENING AT A BUFFET-DINNER HOSTED BY THE DG FOR ALL THE EX.BRD. MEMBERS THE DG AND AMBASSADOR TORRES HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT AND THE DG EXPRESSED HIS HAVING BEEN ANGERED AT THE ISSUE, BUT ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF HIS REACTION TO THE GENERAL STRAIN OF THE LONG BOARD MEETING AND SAID HE FELT NO PERSONAL ANIMOSITY AND THE MATTER WOULD BE FORGOTTEN.
TORRES

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